



Dear Friends in the **Northern Illinois Synod**, where Mosaic provides services in the Rockford community.

Last year, while taking down a building on our founding campus that was well past its useful era, we found a time capsule from around 70 years ago. One of the items in the capsule was a copy of The Small Catechism of Martin Luther. Many of you probably remember spending time with that catechism as a child—I know I do.

Finding the catechism in the cornerstone time capsule wasn't a big surprise, because since its founding 111 years ago, Mosaic has been affiliated with the Lutheran Church. The values handed down through faith of welcoming the stranger, embracing the poor, acting with compassion and integrity and serving those in need have shaped Mosaic into what it is today.

Mosaic is never shy about sharing that we are a faith-based, ELCA-affiliated organization. As your ministry, everything we do is about empowering people to live the full life God intended for them. In your name, we reach nearly 4,500 people with life-enriching supports.

What does that look like?

- Brenda moved from foster home to foster home (13 in all) until she aged out of the system and had to live on her own without knowing how to care for herself. After years of declining health and hygiene, she came to Mosaic and has transformed from being anxious and scared of life to embracing life and looking forward to what's coming next.
- Alexis came to Mosaic from another service provider whose staff said she was so difficult that we'd be sorry if we brought her in. Through Mosaic staffs' patience and kindness, we learned that all Alexis wanted was to feel loved and safe. We provided both—and more. Today, she is happy and singing through much of her day.
- Siblings Nate and Riri had lived together all of their lives until family could no longer care for them, and they were split up. Mosaic found the right shared living (host home) provider who wanted them reunited in her home, and said, "I see them being a presence in my life forever. I can honestly say, 'I love them.'"

Those are just three examples, but there are hundreds of similar stories across our network of services. It's how we live out our mission statement: *"Embracing God's call, Mosaic relentlessly pursues opportunities that empower people."*

We also have an opportunity that can empower your congregation in new ways. Our Rejoicing Spirits program creates welcoming worship opportunities for people with diverse needs. You can learn about it at [rejoicingspirits.org](http://rejoicingspirits.org). We've had congregations tell us it brought a renewed sense of mission to their work.

Thank you for being a partner in our mission to love and serve others. I'm thankful our organization was founded in faith and thankful we continue to be a serving arm of the Church.



*God bless you all.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Timmons".

Linda Timmons, President and CEO, Mosaic